(च) क्या सरकार ने इन परिवारों को दी जाने वाली मुआवजा-राशि में वृद्धि करने का निर्णय लिया है अथवा लेने का विचार रखती है; और

(छ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इसके लिये कितनी धनराशि निर्धारित की है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) से (ङ) 1994 के आरम्भ से, मध्य प्रदेश के रायगढ़ और सरगुजा क्षेत्रों में जंगली हाथियों द्वारा उपद्रव मचाने, मनुष्यों की आहत करने या मारने के बारे में कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है। तथापि, 1988-89 से दिसम्बर, 1993 की पिछली अवधि के दौरान, जंगली हाथियों द्वारा 41 व्यक्ति मारे गये, 15 घायल किए गए तथा फसल और सम्पत्ति को नुकसान पहुंचाने के 6028 मामलों की सूचना दी गई थी। सरकार ने प्रभावित परिवारों को, क्षतिपूर्ति के रूप में कुल 61,85,548/- रुपये की धनराशि का भुगतान किया है, जिसमें से 4,20,300/- रुपये नुकसान और जन हानि के लिये तथा 57,65,248/- रुपये फसल और सम्पत्ति के नुकसान के लिये दिए गए।

सरकार ने उत्पात मचाने वाले, ऐसे सभी हाथियों को पकड़ लिया है और इस प्रकार की घटनाओं को सफलतापूर्वक रोक दिया है।

(च) जी, नहीं।

(छ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Specific Programmes to Improve Forest Wealth

7650. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking specific programmes to be implemented to improve forest wealth;

(b) what are the checks and balances apart from the regular laws of the country;

(c) whether Government would allot Government Peramboke lands for afforestation; and

(d) if so, what are the norms followed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In order to improve the forest wealth, a massive programme of afforestation including Social and Farm Forestry under the 20-point-Programme is under implementation in all the States/Union Territories.

(b) A monitoring mechanism has been evolved with the involvement of independent agencies including Non-Governmental organisations to get the feedback regarding progress and performance of afforestation being carried out under the 20-point programme.

(c) and (d) In order to bring more area under tree cover for eco-restoration and conservation of bio-diversity, efforts are being made by the Government to bring all types of available land including Government Peramboke lands under the tree cover.

Effects of toxic chemicals on the marine life in Gujarat and Maharashtra

7651. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have decided to reassess the toxic effects of chemicals used for neutralizing oil slicks on the marine life particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra States;

(b) Whether Government contemplate to intensify the research and development work in finding zero demaging or less demaging chemicals to meet such a situation;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the measures taken to save marine life from toxic effects of such chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The dispersants used by the Coast

Guard to combat oil spills are testified by National Institute of Oceanography as non-toxic and meet the International standards. Research and Development work to find Bio-substitutes to chemical dispersant is an on-going activity. Department of Biotechnology and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur have conducted research work for physical and biological removal of oil, which is still at the trial stage.

(d) Does not arise.

Killing of wild animals in National Park, Orissa

7652. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing depletion of fauna and flora in the Similipal Forest and National Park in Orissa;

(b) whether that National Park has become the hunting ground of poachers;

(c) whether elephants, tigers and deers are killed in that forest freely and unabated; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check the killing of wild life and also the preservation of fauna and flora in the Similipal forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The state Government have reported some incidences of poaching of elephants in Similipal Tiger Reserve in the past few months.

(d) The Field Director has been advised to strengthen his intelligence network and intensify patrolling to check poaching and other illegal activities.

Water and Air Pollution in Delhi

7653. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing water and air pollution in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem in the capital; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. Water and air pollution in Delhi, shows an increase in certain areas in terms of some parameters.

From the year 1992 to 1993 the level of water pollution in the river Yamuna at upstream of Delhi (Palla) shows no significant increase, whereas downstream of Delhi (Okhla) indicates significant increase in the level of pollution in terms of pollutants like BOD, and faecal coliforms. Waste generation due to rise in population together with industrial effluents are the major cause of increase in water pollution.

With regard to air pollution, the annual mean ambient air quality data indicate the following;

(i) From 1992 to 1993, the percentage of increase in No_x level ranges between 1.99 to 30.4 in five out of six locations, where air quality monitoring is done in Delhi.

(ii) From 1992 to 1993 SPM concentration has increased within a range of 1.14% to 6.02% in three out of six locations.

(iii) From 1992 to 1993 SO_2 concentration has increased within a range of 6.63% to 36.76% in three out of six locations.

The increase in vehicular variety population especially of the transient and the consequent slow movement of